As for the provision of a special allotment of two lakhs of rupees every year for the grant of agricultural loans to the *punja* cultivators and the remission of tax on *punja* lands damaged by breaches of bunds, I can only say that each case will be considered on its merits, as it arises.

In regard to the prevention of the flow of brackish water into *punja* lands, part (4) of your representation, the Chief Engineer will be consulted.

You want a branch of the Land Mortgage Bank to be established at Kottayam. As the Bank was itself started in Trivandrum only two months ago, the question of opening branches must wait until business develops.

As regards the opening of a manure depot and a demonstration farm at Kumarakam, a manure depot can be established there if a suitable body, a co-operative society for instance, would come forward to take up an agency.

For the supply of kerosene to the *punja* cultivators during the cultivation season, there are already, at Kottayam, Alleppey and Changanachery, agents dealing in kerosene. There is, therefore, no necessity for creating any Government agency for the purpose.

In regard to the Maveli *todu*, the Public Works Department has conducted a preliminary investigation about it.

There seems to be no need for a commission to enquire into the condition of agriculture. The problems in regard to cultivation can be tackled by one or other of the Departments of Government.

25. Measures to be adopted by the Government for the development of industries in the State.

MR. R. KUMARA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Colachel*) said that adequate attention had not been bestowed by the Government for the development of industries. The Industries Department was not of any material benefit to the people. Agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Travancore. But the State could not produce paddy in sufficient quantities to meet the demands of the people even for eight months in a year. The people were therefore obliged to take to some sort of industries to earn their livelihood. The prices of the chief agricultural products of the State, such as paddy, cocoanut, pepper and cardamoms had gone down considerably and the agriculturists were experiencing great hardships thereby. The number of the unemployed was also increasing day by day. The Government had therefore a duty cast upon them to find out ways and means for developing local industries and help the people in earning their livelihood. The member made the following suggestions for the serious consideration of the Government —

(1) Opening of institutes for imparting instruction in carpentry, smithery, weaving and soap making.

(2) Spinning should be made a compulsory subject of study in all schools and weaving in the schools in important centres.

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(3) Subsidising the people in extracting oil from oil seeds, curing fish and developing the art of painting.

(4) Award of grants-in-aid to all industries and supervising them effectively.

(5) Finding out suitable markets abroad for selling local products and for purchasing commodities for use in the State.

(6) Paying greater attention to the development of trade.

(7) Prohibiting assignment of lands and giving of contracts to foreigners.

(8) Locally made articles should be used by the Government for Government purposes and Government officers and students should be compelled to use such articles.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Kumara Pillai, at present, the State is encouraging industries by giving technical education in Government schools and grants-in-aid to industrial schools, and also by granting industrial loans. The Director of Industries is preparing a scheme for developing industries in the State, which, I hope, will soon be ready; and I have no doubt your suggestions will be considered by him.

26. The coir industry.

MR. M. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Nominated*) urged the need for encouraging the *coir* industry in the State. The importance of this industry in the State could not be overrated. It provided livelihood for a sixth of the population. The value of *coir* exported was equal to the value of rice and paddy imported. The genesis of this industry was the discovery by a European resident in Anjengo that cocoanut fibre could be used for making cables. Later on, another European, one Mr. Darragh, found out that mattresses could be made out of this fibre. Since then the industry developed rapidly and many European firms were opened at Alleppey. But it was deplorable that the Government had not done anything substantial for the promotion of this industry. Till the outbreak of the late war, the industry was progressing well. With the close of the war the conditions changed and *coir* industry was seriously affected. Further more the world-wide economic depression affected it more than all. There was no demand for *coir* articles abroad and the prices had gone down. It was therefore necessary that the Government should take immediate steps to protect this industry. Most of the people engaged in it lacked capital. To make up for the low prices offered for *coir* articles, the people were deteriorating the quality of the articles and having recourse to fraud, such as sending out wet *coir*, weighing out *coir* with sand, etc. If these processes were continued, there would be no market for them in future. The Government should therefore find out ways and means to avoid this contingency. The following were the suggestions made by the member :—

(1) Use of fraudulent methods of manufacturing *coir* articles should be penalised.

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